

Calico Ghost Town San Bernardino County Regional Parks

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Press Release

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For release:

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Event: Official State Silver Rush Ghost Town Title

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CALICO AWARDED OFFICIAL STATE TITLE

July 8, 2005 – Senate Bill 906 was passed July 5, designating Calico as the official Silver Rush Town for the State of California.

If approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, the San Bernardino County Regional Park will join other official State emblems such as the Gold Rush Ghost Town of Bodie, the Pasadena Playhouse theatre, and the California Historical Society.

“Official state emblems are important because they indicate the wonderful variety of life characterizing our State. They help tell other states and ourselves who and what we are,” said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus, who has been supportive of the bill since it was first proposed in 2002.

“County residents can be extremely proud that one of their Regional Parks has been awarded this title,” added Director of Regional Parks Tom Potter.

One of only a handful of primarily silver mining towns in California that still exist, Calico was granted State Historical Landmark status back in 1962.

“State historians researching Calico’s history verified our authenticity then, and this additional title reinforces that significance. Hopefully more people enjoy learning the Park’s history because of this,” said Serena Steiner, Interpretive Program Coordinator at Calico.

Hundreds of thousands of tourists stop at Calico on their way to destinations throughout the state, since it is located at crossroads of major transcontinental travel near Barstow.

Interestingly, Bodie, the “Golden” State’s official Gold Rush Town, is located only about 50 miles from the nearest town in the neighboring “Silver State” of Nevada, and Calico

is located about 150 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. Both “official ghost towns” have benefited from tourism going to and from their neighboring states.

Staci Welsch, Calico’s Marketing Director, is fair-minded about both Bodie and Calico being official symbols, adding that, “State nicknames are emblematic of mining history for both California and Nevada. What better way to welcome visitors to either northern or southern California traveling between the Silver State and the Golden State, than to visit representative ghost towns with similar titles? All Californians should be proud of both.”

Next year, Calico will celebrate its 40th anniversary as one of the first County Regional Parks.